

Appendix D

**Status of Cultural Resources
at the Baker Ranch Properties**



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February 17, 2014

Larry Tucker
Baker Ranch Properties, LLC
One Upper Newport Plaza Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Subject: Status of Cultural Resources at the Baker Ranch Properties, LLC, Project Located in the Northwest Quadrant of Portola Parkway and Rancho Parkway in the City of Lake Forest, Orange County, California

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Baker Ranch Properties, LLC, is processing a land use change for a 30-acre project situated in the northwest quadrant of Portola Parkway and Rancho Parkway in the City of Lake Forest (City), Orange County, California (Figure 1, attached). This project area is technically a mine under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975, Chapter 9, Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 2710–2796. Potential impacts to the environment must be considered to ensure adverse environmental impacts are minimized in the development of the proposed project. Thus the City is contracting with a firm to complete the environmental review for the project.

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) has been asked to provide information that would demonstrate the improbability of encountering cultural resources within this project area. From November 2002 through May 2004, LSA provided paleontological monitoring services for El Toro Materials (which conducted sand and gravel aggregate mining on the project site) and, therefore, is familiar with the project site.

During the lifetime of the mining operations, over 1 million yards of material have been removed. The scope of the mining activity also resulted in a reduction in grade of approximately 20 to 75 feet throughout the El Toro Materials property. Any cultural material present within the sand mine would have been encountered in alluvial and colluvial sediment, which would have been very shallow deposits above the Miocene sediments. Due to the removal of a minimum of 20 feet of sediment within the current project area, all of the alluvial and colluvial deposits that may have contained cultural resources have already been removed, and there is no possibility that cultural material will be encountered within this project site. All exposed ground within the property will be composed of either Miocene bedrock or Artificial Fill. No further cultural resources work (e.g., surveying or monitoring) is necessary.

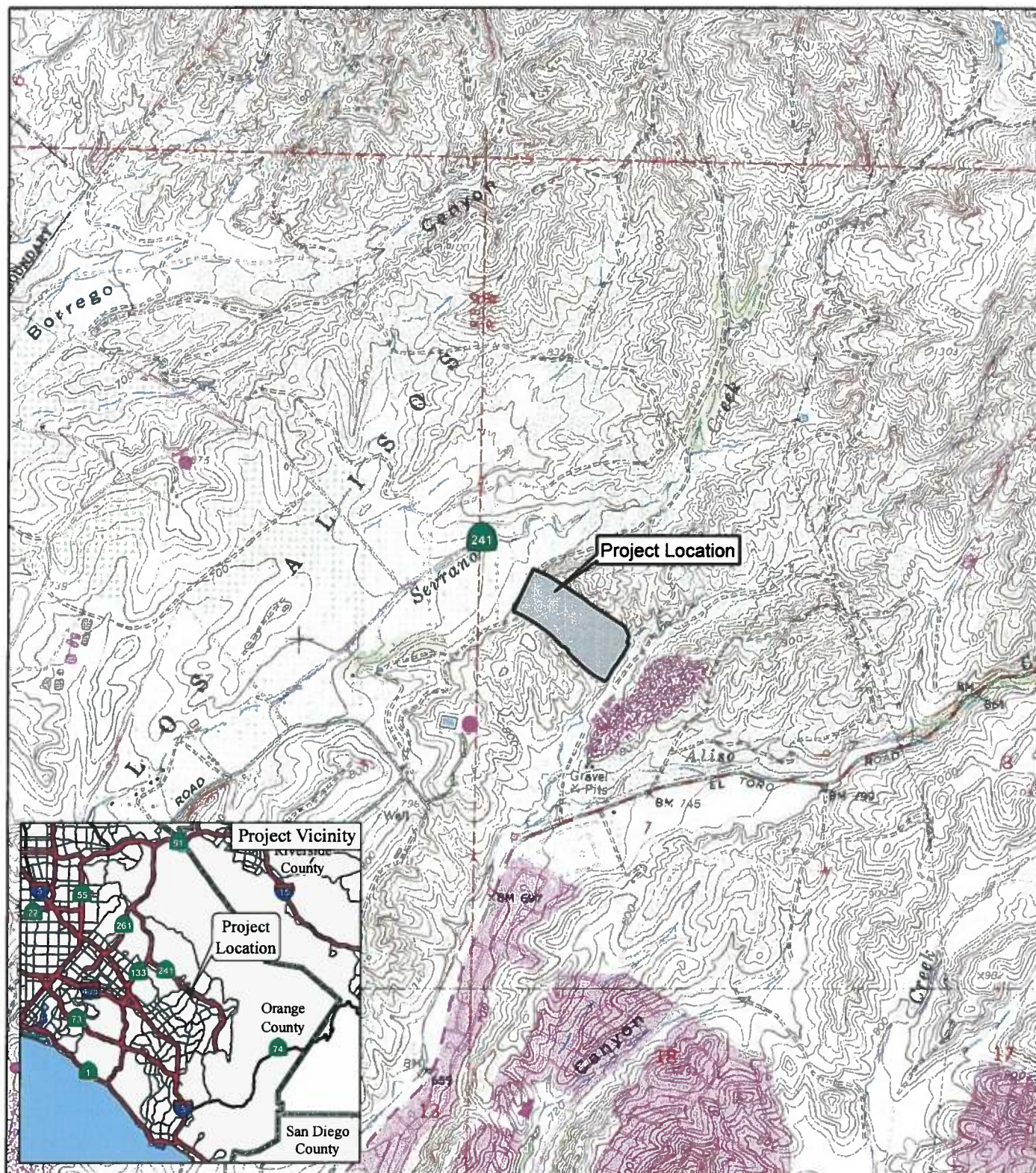
If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact me at (949) 553-0666 or at debbie.mclean@lsa-assoc.com. Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with this issue.

Sincerely,

LSA ASSOCIATES, INC.

Deborah McLean, RPA
Principal/Archaeologist

Attachment: Project Location Map



LSA

LEGEND

 Project Location

FIGURE 1



0 1000 2000
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - El Toro (1982), CA

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Baker Ranch Properties
Project Location Map